(b) what are the welfare schemes that have been modified and to what extent these plans will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) The National Health Policy *inter-alia* envisaged achieving a Birth Rate of 21 per thousand population by the end of 2000 A.D. According to the Seventh Five Year Plan, a birth rate of 29.1 per thousand population is aimed by the end of the Plan period i.e. in 1990.

The Family Welfare Programme during the 7th Plan have a well defined strategy. The strategy emphasises on optimal use of infrastructure created; involvement of voluntary organisations; improving quality of services, enhancing child survival; stregthening of information, education and communication; promotion of temporary contraceptive methods; incentives for terminal methods etc. No major change in the strategy is contemplated at present.

Microlevel planning for utilisation of renewable resources

445. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has recommended the launching of an experimental five year programme of application of Science and Technology to Microlevel planning for utilisation of renewable resources for a series of micro-catchments representing the different logical zones of the country;

(b) if so, what are the other main features of the report submitted by the Council; and

(c) the total amount likely to be involved and to what extent the programme has been examined by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main features of the report are:

Council considers good management of our endowment of natural resources of soil, water, vegetation, livestock and gentic diversity as one of the most significant challenges before the nation. Our development efforts have tended to stress intensification of resource use, tne consequences of which have been disastrous; large scale soil erosion, siltation, floods and droughts, water logging and salination, lowering of ground water table, gradual depletion of fertility of fields, extensive deforestation and overgrazing by cattles and goats. Since the problems are highly location specific it is proposed that these could be solved by a cooperative endeavour involving scientific and technical experts, development planners, local educational institutions and other organisations such as Yuvak and mahila mandals and mandal panchayats

(c) The report has envisaged a budget of Rs. 50 crore for the programme. However, Government is expected to request the State Science and Technology Councils to formulate the proposals for their respective States in the light of recommendations of the report.

setting up of a task force to promote the use of electronics

446. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact the Department of Electronics has constituted a ten Member task force to promote the use of electronics in the basic health care of rural masses;

(b) if so, what will be tne main features of the task force; and

(c) whether any concrete programme has been formulated and by what time the same are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A task force on "Electronics for Health care" has been set up by Department of Electronics (DoE) in August 1988 with 15 members.

(b) The Task Force has the following terms of reference:—

(1) The requirement of electronics in health care for the Eighth and Ninth Plans as also to seek a target for the year 2000.

(2) To study the various manufacturing facilities available in the country and to identify the requirement of specific components and equipment that would be required to meet the demand of the Electronic Health Care Equipment.

(3) To study the existing Import Policy and duty structure on imported equipment vis-a-vis indegenous manuafcture, especially the anomaly of zero import duty on finished imported equipment vis-a-vis 40—250 per cent import duty on components and sub-assemblies for the same and to suggest suitable remedies.

(4) To look at various excise and sales tax applicable to manufacutred products and to suggest means of bringing them in line with similar duties on imported equipment.

(5) To interface with the Ministry of Health to suggest ways and means for setting up district health care centres equipped with mostmodern electronic equipment in health care so as to disperse the benefit of modern Health Care to the rural poor.

(c) Task Force is expected to submit its report by the end of November, 1988. Concrete programme will be evolved thereafter.

Financial assistance for flood control work

447 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent problem of floods could have been effectively controlled;

(b) whether the Union Government have considered and have taken final decision to provide Central help to control floods and the devastation that has been caused due to these floods; and

(c) if so, what are the main proposals being considered by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) Flood management measures are taken in anticipation of a certain level of floods. In case of floods of unprecedented nature such as one that occurred in some areas during the last monsoon, the cost-effectiveness of the measures that can be taken include flood warnings and better regulation of economic activities in the flood-prone zones, in addition to such structural measures as may be possible at specific locations. Even though the primary responsibility for flood management and maintenance of flood control structures rests with the State Government, the Central Government has been extending all technical assistance, flood warnings and also give loan assistance to the State of Assam and on a few projects to other States. Central Government has also established the Brahmaptra Board and the Ganga Flood Control Commission for integrated planning of flood management works and measures.

Family Welfare Programmes

448. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article in the October 31, 1988 issue of "India Today" in which the great hoax of family welfare programmes has been exposed;

(b) whether Government are aware that though this hoax not only Government are being fed with false figures of achievement but large amounts of money are also being swindled; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to streamline the system and prevent mis-use of funds for the purpose?